

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE KENTUCKY P-16 COUNCIL

What is the Kentucky P-16 Council?

The Council comprises three members of the Kentucky Board of Education, three members of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, the state Commissioner of Education, the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education, two representatives of the Education Professional Standards Board, the KDE Director of Early Childhood Development, the CPE Vice President for Adult Education, the Executive Director of Technical Education, the Commissioner of Workforce Investment, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, a business representative and a labor representative designated by the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, and the Secretary of the Education Cabinet. Created by the CPE and the KBE in spring 1999, it conducted the first of its quarterly meetings in July 1999. Advancing the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, the Kentucky Higher Education Reform Act of 1997, and the Kentucky Adult Education Reform Act of 2000, the P-16 Council advises the Board of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and its other partner agencies on the preparation and professional development of teachers, the alignment of competency standards, and the elimination of barriers impeding student transition from preschool through the baccalaureate.

Why was it formed?

The P-16 Council was formed to help Kentucky achieve its ambitious goals for education reform by improving cooperation and communication among elementary, secondary, and postsecondary teachers and administrators. Kentucky trails national averages for percentages of its population that go to college, persist, and graduate. The P-16 Council champions initiatives that motivate Kentuckians to complete secondary and postsecondary education.

What objectives is the Council pursuing?

- Better aligning curricula and expectations between secondary, adult, and postsecondary education to clarify what every student needs to know and be able to do at each level.
- Raising the quality of teachers through improved, campus-wide preparation and professional development.
- Increasing the number and diversity of students enrolling and succeeding in college by stressing programs that persuade parents and students to plan early for advanced education.
- Championing policies and programs that prepare more Kentuckians for postsecondary education and make it more affordable.

What has the P-16 Council done so far?

- Sponsored Kentucky's participation in *The American Diploma Project* to align high school graduation and adult education standards with postsecondary and employer expectations.
- Sponsored statewide teams of P-12 teachers and postsecondary faculty in mathematics and literacy who recommended policies to reduce the need for postsecondary remediation.
- Promoted diagnostic testing to help high school students and adult learners identify academic deficiencies before entering college.

- Oversaw a statewide dual credit task force and studies of the effect of dual enrollment on postsecondary enrollment and success to develop statewide eligibility and funding policy guidelines.
- Endorsed and promoted revised High School Feedback Reports serving both school and district planning and postsecondary enrollment management needs.
- Endorsed annual statewide symposia of postsecondary leadership to improve the teaching effectiveness of P-12 teachers.
- Coordinated involvement of the Kentucky Virtual Campus and Kentucky Virtual Schools in projects to extend the access of education to students of all ages and to expand professional development opportunities for teachers.
- Sponsored two rounds of statewide GEAR UP grants exceeding \$60+ million to prepare economically disadvantaged middle school students for college.
- Endorsed a statewide public communications campaign to promote postsecondary education for all Kentuckians.
- Endorsed Kentucky's first cross-agency budget proposal to support P-20 data collection and the Kentucky Education Network infrastructure.
- Oversaw the formation of local P-16 councils across the Commonwealth.

Do other states have P-16 Councils?

More than 20 states have P-16 (or P-20) organizations, and that number continues to grow. Although the structure and emphasis of the organizations vary, the concerns of teacher education, curriculum alignment, and student transition focus discussions nationwide.

What is the relationship of the P-16 Council to local education groups?

The Kentucky P-16 Council has overseen the creation of local P-16 Councils that convene educators from preschools, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and adult education providers, as well as business, labor, and community leaders, to better meet the educational needs of an area. Working with local councils and boards of education, the state Council both advises and promotes best practices for ongoing improvement.

How do people find out more about the P-16 Council?

The agendas for all meetings and other materials are on the Web sites of the Council on Postsecondary Education (www.cpe.ky.gov) and the Kentucky Department of Education (www.education.ky.gov). Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 19 and December 12, 2007.

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